

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 19-30 and 38-51 were previously examined in the above-identified application. Claims 7-18, and 31-37 were previously canceled. Claims 1-6, 19-30 and 38-51 are newly canceled herein. Claims 52-74 are added. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Examination and reconsideration of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 29-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have taken the Examiner's suggestion and have substantially incorporated the subject matter of dependent claims 29 and 30 into new independent claims 52 and 64, respectively.

In particular, Applicants have added new independent claims 52 which substantially incorporates the subject matter of independent claims 27 and allowable dependent claim 29. However, it should be noted that Applicants have changed "a conveyor assembly that moves a substrate from a first station to a second station, and to a third station" to "a conveyor assembly that moves a substrate." Even with such a claim amendment, Applicants believe that new independent claim 52 is allowable.

To more fully claim the novel aspects of the present invention, Applicants have also added dependent claims 53-63. Since dependent claims 53-63 depend from an allowable independent claim, such claims should also be allowable.

Applicants have also added new independent claim 64 which incorporates the subject matter of previously pending independent claim 27 and allowable dependent claim 30. Similar to claim 52, Applicants have changed the phrase "a conveyor assembly that moves a substrate from a first station to a second station, and to a third station," from original claim 27 to instead recite "a conveyor assembly that moves a substrate." Even with such a claim amendment, Applicants believe that new independent claim 64 should be allowable.

To more fully claim the novel aspects of the present invention, Applicants have further added new dependent claims 65-74 that depend from allowable independent claim 64. Such claims should be allowable at least for the reason that they depend from an allowable independent claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §102(b) and 103

Claims 1-6, 19-28 and 38-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103 over a variety of references. As noted above, to expedite prosecution of the present application, all pending claims are canceled and are replaced with new claims 52-70. Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims of the original scope in a continuation or continuation in part patent application. No new matter has been added with the new claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 206-467-9600.

Respectfully submitted,

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